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1988
SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT (ALASKA PENINSULA AREA)
MANAGEMENT PLAN

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SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT MAINLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
ALASKA PENINSULA AREA

The Department will manage the Southeastern District Mainland fishery according to the Southeastern District Management Plan adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Changes made by the Alaska Board of Fisheries during it's March 1988 meeting that affect the Southeastern District Mainland fishery:

- (1) Adjusted the allocation of Chignik destined sockeye to an even 6 percent.
- (2) Transferred the Beaver Bay Section from the South Central District to the Southeastern District.
- (3) Divided the West Stepovak Section into a Southwest Stepovak Section and a Northwest Stepovak Section.
- (4) Created a Stepovak Flats Section out of the northern end of the East Stepovak Section.
- (5) Required that red lights be placed on the offshore end of set gillnets and on both ends if the shoreward end is over 300 feet from shore.

The Northwest Stepovak and Stepovak Flats Sections will be managed on a local stock basis. When possible, fishing time in these sections will coincide with other nearby fisheries to avoid concentrating fishing gear.

Set gillnets are the only legal gear allowed in the Beaver Bay, Balboa Bay, Southwest Stepovak, Northwest Stepovak, East Stepovak, and Stepovak Flats Sections through 10 July. After 10 July, set gillnets, purse seines, and hand purse seines are legal.

The Beaver Bay, Balboa Bay, Southwest Stepovak, and East Stepovak Sections will be managed on the basis of Chignik sockeye stocks through 25 July. After 25 July, the whole area will be managed for local stocks.

The forecasted midpoint harvest for the Chignik sockeye returns during 1988 are 1.03 million fish for the early return and 543,000 for the second return.

Since the harvestable surplus is expected to exceed 600,000, the Southeastern District Mainland fishery may open when the fishery opens at Chignik. Based on the moderately strong forecast, it is possible that the first opening could be as early as 8 June. At least 36 hours notice will be given prior to the first commercial fishing period in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery. At least an 18 hour notice will be given prior to the opening of any other fishing period, unless it is an extension of a fishing period in progress. If the first run fails, the Southeastern District Mainland fishery will be curtailed in order to allow a minimum harvest in the Chignik Area of at least 300,000 sockeye through 8 July if that many are surplus to the escapement needs.

During the period from approximately 26 June to 9 July, the strength of the second run of Chignik River system sockeye salmon cannot be evaluated at Chignik Lagoon. To prevent overharvest of the second run, commercial salmon fishing in the Southeastern District Mainland will, in the Department's discretion, be disallowed or severely restricted during this period.

Fishing time in the Southeastern District Mainland after 8 July will be dependent upon the strength of the second run and on the Chignik Area catch during the first run. When the second run appears strong enough for a fishery at Chignik, the Southeastern District Mainland will be opened if at least 300,000 were harvested from the first run in the Chignik Area. The Department will then manage the fishery whereby the number of sockeye salmon harvested in the Chignik Area on both runs combined will be at least 600,000 and the harvest in the Southeastern District Mainland will approach as near as possible 6 percent of the total Chignik bound sockeye salmon catch¹, if that many fish are available surplus to the escapement needs.

At the December 1982 meeting, the Board of Fisheries adopted the following regulation pertaining to fishery management plans:

¹ The total Chignik sockeye salmon catch constitutes those sockeye salmon caught within the Chignik Area plus 80 percent of the sockeye salmon caught in the Cape Igvak Section of the Kodiak Area plus 80 percent of the sockeye caught in the Southeastern District Mainland fishery outside of the Suzy Creek to Dent Point portion.

5 AAC 39.200 APPLICATION OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

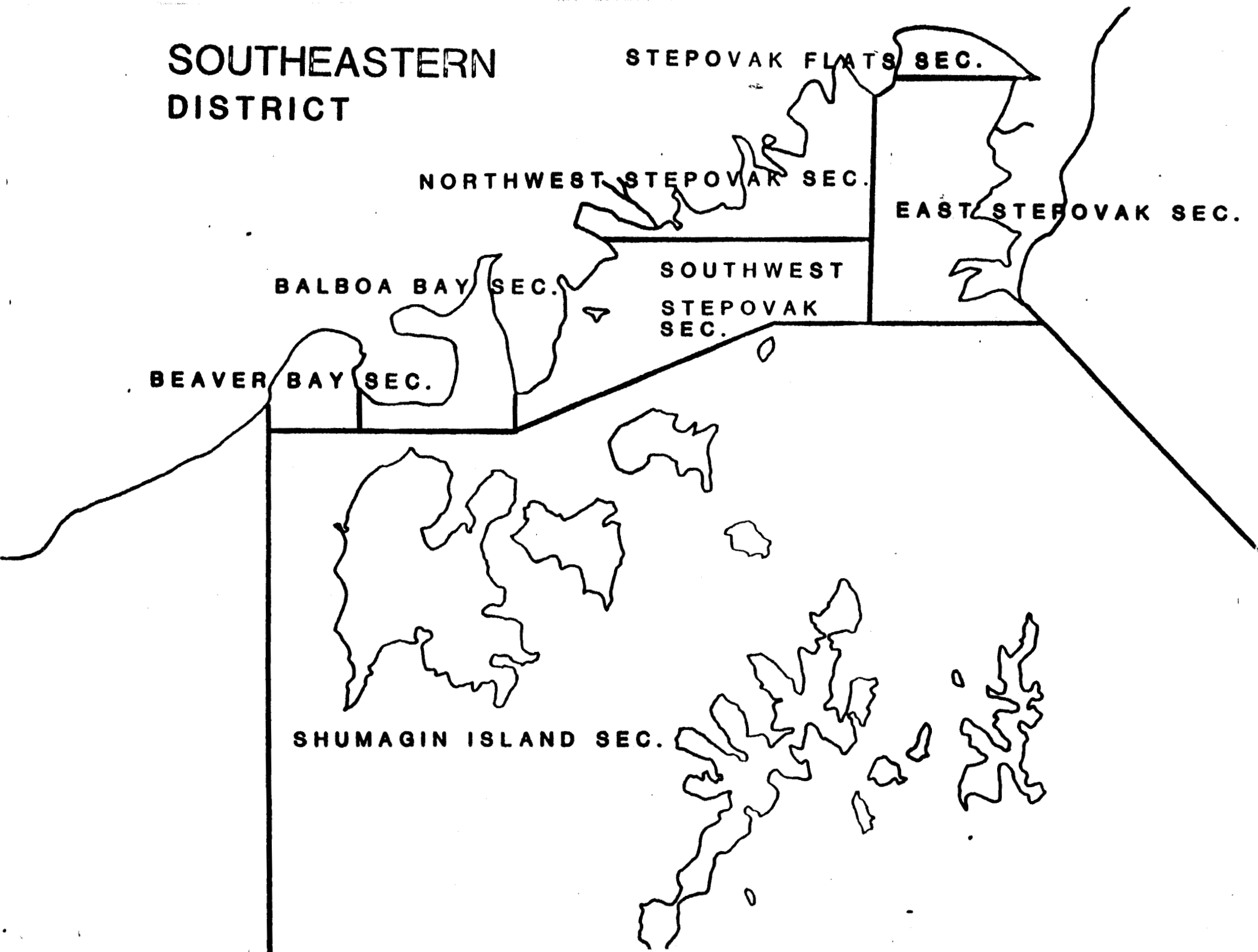
(b) In some fishery management plans, the distribution of harvestable fish between various users is determined by the harvest that occurs during a specific time period, at a specific location or by a specific group or groups of users. At times fishermen, due to circumstances that are beyond the control of the Department, such as weather or price disputes, will not harvest fish. When this happens in a fishery governed by a management plan the goals of that plan may not be achieved. Therefore, when a fishery is open to the taking of fish and the group or groups of users whose catch determines the distribution of the harvest as set out in the applicable management plan is not taking the harvestable fish available to them, the Department shall manage the fishery as if the available harvest is being taken. When determining the available harvest, the Department shall consider the number of fish needed to meet spawning requirements, the number of fish present in the fishery and in spawning areas that are in excess to spawning requirements and the estimated harvesting capacity of the group or groups of users that would normally participate in the fishery.

The fishery shall be managed according to the plan as stated in the 1988 regulation book. No attempt will be made to allow equal fishing time with Chignik, as had been done at one time, but rather the end goal will be to meet the 6 percent catch levels after the conditions² of the plan have been satisfied. To meet the goal of 6 percent by 25 July, the percentage may fluctuate above or below 6 percent prior to 25 July.

Because of the many restrictions placed upon the Southeastern District Mainland fishery to protect the Chignik runs, it may not be possible to achieve a 6 percent catch level even though the minimum catch level of 600,000 at Chignik is exceeded.

² Conditions include daily escapement goals at Chignik, a minimum Chignik sockeye harvest for each run, and restrictive fishing time in the Cape Igvak section and Southeastern District Mainland during the 26 June to 9 July overlap period. The total minimum harvest for Chignik is listed under 5 AAC 09.360 on pages 32 and 33 in the 1987 Commercial Finfish Regulation booklet.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT



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